

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 01030 091556Z  
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05  
CIAE-00 L-01 /034 W  
-----091603Z 111360 /42  
P 091028Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8935

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1030

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PINT, SP  
SUBJECT: TSORIO'S LATEST VIEWS

1. SECOND VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT ALFONSO OSORIO  
LUNCHEDED WITH ME FEBRUARY 7 AND MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS.

2. ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL LAW. OSORIO INDICATED THAT  
THE DRAFT ELECTORAL LAW WAS COMPLETE AND WOULD  
REQUIRE LITTLE FURTHER NEGOTIATION, THOUGH SOME POINTS STILL  
WERE OUTSTANDING, INCLUDING THE ISSUE OF THE MINIMUM PER-  
CENTAGE, WHICH A PARTY WOULD NEED TO GET SEATS IN THE LOWER  
HOUSE, AND SOME OF THE IMPORTANT MECHANISMS OF HANDLING BOTH  
LOWER AND UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS, PLUS THE QUESTION OF ACCESS  
TO THE MEDIA FOR POLITICAL PARTIES, HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE  
ELECTIONS DATE WOULD SOON BE ANNOUNCED. IN RESPONSE TO MY  
QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE DATE OF THE ELECTORAL LAW SHOULD  
BE ANNOUNCED FIRST HE SAID THAT TO ANNOUNCE THE DATE NOW,  
EVEN THOUGH THE ELECTORAL LAW WAS NOT QUITE READY WOULD  
KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING AND PUT PRESSURE ON THE  
POLITICAL PARTIES TO GET THEMSELVES FULLY ORGANIZED.  
OSORIO CONFIRMED THAT A ROYAL COMMISSION WOULD BE SET  
UP TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A FAIR ELECTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 01030 091556Z

3. SUAREZ TO RUN FOR PARLIAMENT? OSORIO SAID HE HAD  
TOLD BOTH SUAREZ AND THE KING THAT SUAREZ MUST NEGOTIATE  
WITH THE OPPOSITION FOR ELECTION TO THE PRESENTATION  
OF HIS CANDIDACY FOR ELECTION TO PARLIAMENT AS THE  
DECLARED LEADER OF THE CENTRO DEMOCRATICO IN ORDER  
TO ASSURE A GREATER MAJORITY BASE TO OPERATE FROM IN THE  
NEW CORTES. IF HE STATED ABOVE THE BATTLE HE WOULD

BE MORTGAGED TO THE CENTRO FOR THEIR SUPPORT, BUT WITHOUT AN ELECTORAL BASE OF HIS OWN. HE ALSO ARGUED THAT THE CENTRO WOULD HANG TOGETHER BETTER WITH SUAREZ THE RECONGIZED LEADER. I TOLD OSIRIO I WAS INCLINDED TO AGREE WITH HIS ARGUMENTS, BECAUSE IT WAS NATURAL THAT SUAREZ WOULD BE IDENTIFIED WITH SOME POLITICAL FORMATION.

4. THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT. OSORIO GAVE ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN IF THE FRANCO ERA INSTUTION OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT SHOULD BE BROKEN UP NOW AND A NEW MINISTRY CREATED TO HANDLE THE YOUTH AND CULTURE PROGRAMS OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, THIS WOULD NOT REALLY CHANGE THE FACT THAT THE LOCAL LEVELS WOULD CONTUINE TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT IN THE ELECTIONS, SO THAT FRAGA'S ALIANZA POPULAR WOULD NOT GET A GREAT DEAL OF SUPPORT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

5. THE COMMUNISTS ISSUE. WITH THE INSTITUTION PERHAPS AT THE FEBRUARY 8 CABINET MEETING, OF A NEW PARTY REGISTRATION PROCEDURE THE ISSUE OF THE LEGALITY OF THE COMMUNISTS PARTY WOULD BECOME A MATTER FOR THE COURTS TO DECIDE. OSORIO SAID HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE COURTS TO RULE PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS THAT THE PCE IS ILLEGAL. THIS WOULD PREVENT THEM FROM APRTICIPATING AS SUCH IN THE ELECTIONS THOUGH THE COMMUNISTS WOULD PRESENT INDIVIDUAL CANDIDACIES (PRESEUMABLY IN AN "INDEPENDENT " ALLIANCE. OTHERWISE HE FEARED THAT IF THE PARTY WERE FOUND LEGAL AND ABLE TO PARTICIPATE UNDER ITS OWN NAME, THIS WOULD PUSH PEOPLE IN THE CENTER IN THE DIRECTION OF THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 01030 091556Z

ALIANZA POPULAR. AFTER THE ELECTIONS, THE PARTY COULD BE LEGALIZED.

6. I ASKED HIM HOW THEY WOULD LEGALIZE THE PARTY AFTER THE ELECTION. HE SAID BY CHANGING THE PENAL CODE. I ASKED WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE EASIER TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER NOW IF VARIOUS GROUPS INCLUDING THE MILITARY COULD BE BROUGHT TO ACCEPT A COURT DECISION ACCEPTING PCE REGISTRATION RATHER THAN WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION WHEN THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND NEW CORTES WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE TREMENDOUSLY SENSITIVE POLICIAL ACT OF CHANGING THE PENAL CODE. JUDICAIL DETERMINATION NOW WOULD BE EASER THAN A POLITICAL ONE LATER. ALSO, PERMITTING PARTICIAPATION OF INDEPENDENT COMMUNIST CANDIDATES WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS. THE GOS WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE TO PROHIBIT POLITICAL RALLIES BY THE COMMUNISTS WHO WOULD RUN AS MARTYS WITH SYMPATHY FROM NON COMMUNISTS POLITICIANS. MARTYR STATUS WOULD ONLY INCREASE THEIR FAIRLY LOW SUPPORT AND CAUSE THE

GOVERNMENT CREDIBILITY PROBLEMS. OSORIO TOOK THESE  
POINTS SOME OF WHICH HE CLEARLY HAD NOT GIVEN MUCH  
THOUGH TO BEFORE, ESPECIALLY THE DELICATE QUESTION OF  
CHANGING THE PENAL CODE IN THE NEW CORTES. HIS REMARKS  
ON SOCIALIST FERMENT ARE INCLUDED IN A SEPTTEL ON THAT  
SUBJECT (MADRID 1024).STABLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION LAW, COMMUNISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MADRID01030  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770046-0593  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MADRID  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770259/aaaabzxy.tel  
**Line Count:** 122  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 2edd18c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3366790  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TSORIO'S LATEST VIEWS  
**TAGS:** PINT, SP, (OSORIO, ALFONSO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2edd18c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009